**Disinvestment of Government share in VSNL**

595. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNI CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going ahead with disinvestment of its shares upto 26 per cent in VSNL;

(b) if so, whether Government had earlier expressed serious concern over the security implications of the privatization of VSNL;

(c) if so, whether the issue was referred to the MHA and other concerned security agencies before going ahead with disinvestment;

(d) if so, the response thereto and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Security concern would be suitably dealt with in consultation with Department of Disinvestment and Ministry of Home Affairs at the time of disinvestment.

**Non-delivery of money orders**

596. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNI CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of complaints made during the financial year 2000-2001 with regard to the non-delivery of the money orders and the quantum of money involved therein, zone-wise;

(b) whether any departmental enquiry has been initiated to find out the culprits;

(c) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to make the better use of the Post Office network for sending the money orders and it becomes a very popular service of the Post Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF-COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Data regarding

complaints for the current financial year is available upto 31.12.2000 and this shows that 176523 complaints with regard to non-delivery of money orders were received, involving a total amount of Rs. 138534579.90. Circle wise details are given in Annexure.

(b) and (c) On receipt of a complaint, it is immediately acknowledged and enquiries are taken up with the paying office. If no reply is received within 10 days, there is standing provision to issue a duplicate money order and arrange immediate payment. On completion of enquiry, officials found responsible for delay are suitably punished. During the period from 1.4,2000 to 31.12.2000, 449 officials were awarded different kinds of punishments in this regard. Circle wise details are given in the enclosed statement, *(see* below)

(d) The department has a network of 139 VSATs transmitting money orders through satellite channels. This includes 62 high speed VSAT centres set up during the year 1999-2000. Adequate extension of the VSAT network through successive plan schemes can provide electronic transmission for the entire money order traffic. Benefit of modernised money order service is further extended to customers through 884 Extended Satellite Money Orders stations located throughout the country and linked to the VSAT network. Better administrative supervision, periodical and regular checks on service quality and prompt attention to customer grievances are some of the methods, adopted for ensuring greater efficiency of this service.

**Statement**

*Details of complaints received about non-delivery of money order with amount involved and the action taken against the employees, for the period 1.4.2000 to 31.12.2000.*

| Name of Circle | No. of complaints | Amount involved | No. of officials punished |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assam | 3566 | 14,89,402.00 | NIL |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1,962 | 07,63,712.00 | Three |
| Bihar | 3,874 | 22,21,493.00 | NIL |
| Delhi | 30,349 | 2,90,18.688.00 | One |

| Name of | No. of | Amount involved 4058081.00 | No. of officials punished |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | One |
| Circle J&K | complaints | | |
| Gujarat | 03 | 1460.00 | One |
| H.P. | 3,371 | 37,34,841.00 | One |
| Haryana | 15,396 | 1,23,45,380.00 | Three |
| Kerala | 426 | 3,07,448.00 | Twenty Three |
| Karnataka | 37 | 99,357.90 | Twenty four |
| Madhya Pradesh | 6973 | 20,77466.00 | Eleven |
| Maharashtra | 40,103 | 40051452.00 | Nil |
| North East | 315 | 28200.00 | Nil |
| Orissa | 1,724 | 14,82,248.00 | Nil |
| Punjab | 13,053 | 10,67,5350.00 | Nil |
| Rajasthan | 4,073 | 507250.00 | Two Hundred sixteen |
| Tamil Nadu | 4,105 | 35,44,589.00 | Ninteen |
| U.P- | 31577 | 1,9583162.00 | One Hundred Forty Six |
| West Bengal | 13,036 | 65,45,000.00 | Nil |
| TOTAL | 176523 | 13,8534579.90 | Four Hundred Forty nine |

**GDP in the year of 2000-2001**

† 597. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of Gross Domestic Product achieved at the end of the year 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that the target has not been achieved to some extent;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the target fixed for next year with regard to Gross Domestic Product and the steps taken to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.